

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

District Facility Plans: Bowling Green Independent Schools

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 157.420, KRS 157.622, KRS 157.620, 702 KAR 1:001

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed District Facility Plan (DFP) for the above listed Kentucky school district?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. In accordance with 702 KAR 1:001, each district must develop a local DFP at the completion of a four-year cycle or at the completion of an eight-year cycle (maximum) if the district applies for and is granted a waiver. This process provides a Master Educational Facility Plan that contains an assessment of the school district's attributes and operations including the district profile, educational program, demographic information, facility conditions, transportation information, and finances (cost of delivery of services).

Local school districts are required to select a Local Planning Committee (LPC) to develop a Master Educational Facility Plan (MEFP) and a DFP outlining capital construction priorities.

The LPC, by virtue of its makeup, encourages both community involvement and diversity of ideas. The LPC recommends an MEFP/DFP to the local board. The DFP submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) is the final decision of the local board of education.

Information reviewed in developing the MEFP/DFP provides the LPC with a comprehensive view of program and facility needs required to provide an equitable educational opportunity. KDE staff validates the process and verifies that all information has been provided to the LPC for evaluation.

Bowling Green Independent's proposed DFP was recommended by the LPC (13-0) and approved by the local board of education (5-0). KDE staff certifies that the plan presented is in accordance with 702 KAR 1:001 and is in compliance with all appropriate steps as follows: (1) LPC selection process documented; (2) review of proposed district facility plan for educational programs and curriculum, demographics, facility evaluations, transportation requirements, adequacy of financial plan, and adequacy of square footage; (3) public forum notification through news media; (4) local board public hearing conducted; (5) local KBE public hearing conducted with appointed KDE hearing officer; and (6) plan submitted for KBE approval.

Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale:

Staff recommends that the KBE approve the proposed District Facility Plans for Bowling Green Independent Schools. The plan meets all of the requirements of 702 KAR 1:001.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

In Standard 4 of the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement it is noted that the school's physical environment has an impact on student achievement. Research also indicates that better facilities enhance equity (equal opportunities for all students), attitudes and retention of staff, and parental involvement.

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Deputy Commissioner

Interim Commissioner of Education

Date:

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